



West Haven Library

COLLEEN BAILIE, Executive Director

WEST HAVEN, CT 06516

February 17, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

As a library director in Connecticut, I am deeply troubled by the governor's proposed cuts to the State Library, particularly BorrowIT and CLC.

West Haven residents rely heavily on the BorrowIT program for their materials. In FY15 and FY16, the library borrowed from other libraries 14,376 items and 16,088 respectively. In addition to what we borrowed, we loaned out 7,946 materials and 9,498 to other institutions over the last two years. This is a CORE, and vital service that patrons both love and depend on.

The West Haven Library faced a hefty 8% budget cut this past year. This amount could have been worse if it wasn't for the community coming together to strongly oppose the budget cuts. More than a third of our residents have library cards. The BorrowIT program, a popular and vital program allows us to be able to provide the materials that patrons were looking for; from the research materials for the Mom going back to school part-time, to kids looking for their summer reading materials, along with the elderly woman looking for the latest bestseller in large print. The BorrowIT program, along with our membership in the LION consortium, benefits our patrons in providing access to thousands more in materials. The system that has been in place for forty years has worked for a reason, and rolling back this program goes against our core values in providing the best services possible to our communities.

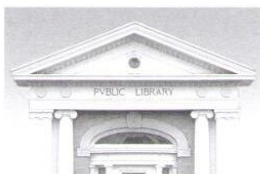
The Connecticut Library Consortium has been an instrumental tool in pooling our collective buying power into one organization to allow us to stretch our shrinking budgets as far as they possibly can go. Cutting CLC would be detrimental to our purchasing power and would cut our funding even further. Just with the CLC's Baker & Taylor discount alone, we are able to purchase almost twice the amount of material for our community!

MAIN BRANCH
300 Elm Street
203-937-4233

ORA MASON BRANCH
260 Benham Hill Road
203-933-9381

LOUIS PIANTINO BRANCH
1 Forest Road
203-933-9335

westhavenlibrary.org



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In a time when more and more citizens are depending on their libraries for services and assistance, now is not the time to be cutting our much-needed services even further. As with many other libraries, despite our shrinking budgets, staffing, and discretionary money for materials, we saw an uptick last year in the number of patrons crossing our doors. As Ann Herbert was quoted saying, “Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.”

Thank you—

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